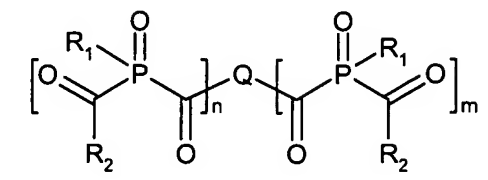


In the Claims:

1-2 (cancelled)

3. (**currently amended**) Process for the preparation of dimer or multimer forms of BAPO compounds of the formula I, ~~according to claim 1,~~



wherein

R₁ is unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₁₂alkyl, benzyl, C₁-C₁₂alkoxy or C₃-C₆cycloalkyl;

R₂ is unsubstituted or substituted C₃-C₆cycloalkyl or C₅-C₁₄aryl;

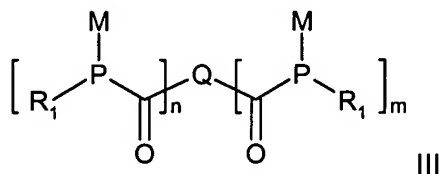
Q is a di-tri or tetravalent arylene residue;

n is 1-4, m is 0-2, n+m is 2, 3 or 4.

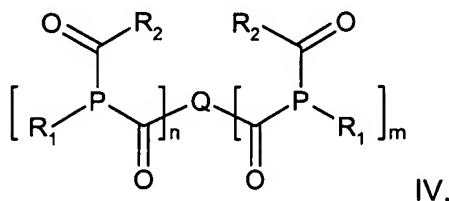
characterized in that (n + m) equivalents of a dimetalated-phosphine **R₁P(M)₂** are reacted with one equivalent of a di-or polycarboxylic acid halogenide

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Hal} \\ \text{O} = \text{C} \end{array} \right]_n - \text{Q} - \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{O} = \text{C} \\ \text{Hal} \end{array} \right]_m$$

to form an intermediate of the formula III



the intermediate **III** is then reacted with (n + m) equivalents of a further carboxylic acid halogenide (**R₂-CO-Hal**) to form dimer or multimer forms of **bisacylphosphine-intermediates** of the formula IV



said phosphines IV are then oxidized to form phosphine oxides of the formula I,
wherein M is Li, Na or K, ~~and R₁, R₂, Q, n and m are as defined in claim 1.~~

4-7 (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) Process according to claim 3, wherein M is Li and wherein the process is carried out in an inert atmosphere at a temperature from -20 to 80°C.

9-21 (cancelled)